

The Augusta Coin Club Meets on the 3rd Thursday of the Month at the Sunrise Grill, 3830 Washington Rd. Martinez

The Augusta Coin Club since 1959

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Volume 19, Number 10

THE AUGUSTA COIN CLUB MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

October, 2019

Our next meeting is Thursday, October 17, 2019 at 7:00 PM, early arrivals, 6:00 PM

Collecting nice coins from SCNA Conventions from 2003 on

Club Meeting Calendar for 2019

Jan. 17	May 16	Sep. 19
Feb. 21	June 20	Oct. 17
Mar. 21	July 18	Nov. 21
Apr. 18	Aug. 15	Dec. 19

South Carolina Numismatic Association Convention Coming Up Fast

The South Carolina Numismatic Association

Invites you to attend their

47th Annual Coin & Currency Show

October 25, 26, & 27, 2019

Friday & Saturday 10AM-6PM, Sunday 10AM-3PM

Conference Hall at

Greenville Convention Center

1 Exposition Drive, Greenville, SC 29607

FREE Admission & **FREE** Parking

Educational Programs:

Saturday 10AM BSA Scouting merit badge program

Register by email to: scna_webmaster@yahoo.com

Young Numismatists Program (Ages 8 to 18) running

continuously Saturday & Sunday during convention hours.

PLEASE BRING THIS POSTCARD WITH YOU TO THE SHOW
TO BE PLACED IN DRAWING FOR 2019 SILVER EAGLE

SCNA Postcard Flyer for Three Day SC Numismatic Convention

The Postcard flyer says it all! If you are a serious collector member of our club, you owe it to yourself to make the trip up to Greenville, SC to attend the convention even if it is for one day. Greenville is slightly more than a two hour drive and the writer remembers that back in 2002, he made his first trip up to the lovely city of Greenville to attend the convention just for the day. If ten people sign up, the SCNA will let us take a van to the convention and back for only \$10.00 per person. The writer started taking his wife with him beginning in 2003 and stayed over night at one of the nearby hotels; dining in the evening with friends or attending concerts at the magnificent Peace Center. It is worth the effort because there are lots of dealers set up at the show for something to add to your collection.

SCNA Conventions the Source of nice Collector Coins over the Years

By Arno Safran



An 1807/6 Draped Bust large cent, S-273, R1 graded VF-30
[Use 3X glass to view hard copy or enlarge page to fill monitor screen]

When the writer arrived in the CSRA at the end of 2000, he observed that many of the collectors favored the Morgan dollar series and to a lesser degree, Barber coins or gold issues (if affordable) over early American coppers and US silver types from the late 18th century thru the early 19th century. Arriving at his first South Carolina Numismatic Convention in Greenville, SC in 2002, he observed that the certified hermetically sealed plastic holder of choice was SEGS, not PCGS or NGC. Since attending the 2006 SCNA convention, that has all changed with dealers offering a much wider range of US type coins plus foreign and ancients as well as tokens and medals. Most of the higher grade and scarcer US coins are all certified today usually by PCGS or NGC and by Anacs and ICG to a lesser degree although the difference in grading accuracy has narrowed to the point where all four are usually reliable. The foregoing said it is up to the collector to still grade the coin with a 3X or higher magnifying glass to check the coin's surfaces for problems.

The 1807/6 Draped Bust large cent pictured above was obtained at the SCNA convention in 2006 from a dealer from Chattanooga who specialized in the series. Large cents were the workhorse of the economy from 1793 thru the mid 1840s, so they circulated heavily and during the past fifty years the membership in the Early American Coppers club has increased considerably while the availability of choice VF-20 or higher circulated graded early US type copper large cents have decreased proportionately, so finding an attractive VF-30 specimen of the 1807/6 Draped Bust large cent at the SCNA convention thirteen years ago started this collector on a "must attend the SCNA convention as an " annual event.

(Continued on page 2, column 1)

SCNA Conventions the Source of nice Coins

(Continued from the previous page)



An 1829 Capped Bust half-dollar, O-104A, R3+ graded XF-45 by NGC

At the same show as it turned out--and from the same dealer--the writer found this attractive example of one of our early Bust half-dollar types that originally was part of the collection of the renowned collector, the late Jules Reiver. The **O** before the number stands for H. Overton, a dealer and numismatist who attributed all the known die varieties of early US halves from 1794 thru 1836 assigning rarity numbers to each one from R1 = common to R8 = very rare. The R3+ indicates the variety shown is neither common nor rare but on the cusp of being scarce. Those two acquisitions "made my show" and I looked forward to returning to the SCANA convention in the following years.



An 1879 Liberty Head \$2.50 quarter eagle graded AU-58 by PCGS
[Use 3X glass to view hard copy or enlarge page to fill monitor screen]

From 1839 until 1929, the \$2.50 gold quarter eagle's diameter was just 18mm, slightly larger than the silver or clad dime at 17.9 mm. With gold rising steadily during 2007, acquiring a gold coin before the yellow metal rose too high might be a good idea for a collector to consider and the small \$2.50 quarter eagle was still relatively inexpensive. **At the 2007 SCNA convention**, the writer came across two different type gold quarter eagle types, the 1879, Liberty shown above struck from 1839 thru 1907 and the 1926 \$2.50 Indian head coined from 1908 thru 1929 shown below. While the Philadelphia Mint's mintage of the 1879 had dropped from 286,240 in 1878 to only **88,960** in 1879, the 1879 is considered one of the more common dates of the series. The certified AU-58 specimen is a good example from an earlier period when an AU-58 looked closer to an MS-63 with a touch of rub on the surface but otherwise an attractive coin, a factor that has reversed itself in recent years where today a coin so graded, appears more like an AU-53 specimen to the eye. The example shown above was acquired at a still low gold price and has since risen in value.



1926 \$2.50 Indian Head quarter eagle graded MS-61 by NGC
[Use 3X glass to view hard copy or enlarge page to fill monitor screen]

The incused Indian Head design by Bela Lyon Pratt helped preserved the features of the coin-type from extensive wear. With the exception of the 1911-D which is rare and the key date of the series, most dates were struck in the six figures with the 1926 being one of the commoner dates and affordable in the grade shown and even higher. This coin type was only slightly more expensive than the Liberty type.



An 1875-S Trade dollar graded MS-61 by PCGS
[Use 3X glass to view hard copy or enlarge page to fill monitor screen]

This lovely 1875-S Trade dollar was acquired at the October, 2009 SCNA convention from a dealer who also set up at the Georgia and Blue Ridge Numismatic Association shows. Like the other preceding coins shown, it is not a scarce piece. In fact, with a mintage of 4,487,000, the third largest of the circulation strike portion of this short-lived series (1873-1878), the 1875-S is the most common. The Act of 1873 authorized these coins for trade with the orient rather than domestic use. During its short tenure the coins were produced at the Philadelphia, San Francisco and Carson City Mints. After closing its doors in 1861, the New Orleans Mint did not reopen until 1879 and by that time the Trade dollar was striking only proofs. Unlike the smaller \$2.50 quarter eagles, a MS-61 Trade dollar with a diameter of 38.1 mm when magnified 500% should show some distracting surface marks, but this particular piece shows only minor ties on the obverse with no visible marks while displaying the eye appeal of an MS-63 graded coin.



An 1869 Liberty Seated half-dollar graded MS-63 by NGC
[Use 3X glass to view hard copy or enlarge page to fill monitor screen]

This beautiful specimen of the 1869 Liberty Seated *with motto* half-dollar certified MS-63 by NGC was acquired at the 2010 SCNA Convention. During the decade of the 1860s into the early 1870s our coinage intended for circulation diminished severely due to the Civil War so Congress authorized fractional currency bank-notes in denominations from 3¢ thru 50¢ to fill their absence along with bronze cent and two cent coinage plus nickel 3¢ and 5¢ pieces to maintain a commercial balance between selling and buying. Throughout that period the Liberty Seated half-dime, dime and quarter coinage was the most deeply affected and many of those dates from that timeframe are rare in today's numismatic market. Half-dollars dated from that same era were struck in larger numbers at both the Philadelphia and San Francisco Mints and the 1869-P with a mintage of 795,300 is one of them that can be encountered in BU from time to time although presently none approaching the quality of the example shown directly above are listed on the current PCGS Collectors Corner web site.

Another aspect that attracted the writer when he first encountered this coin at the SCNA 2010 show was the strong strike the coin exhibited displaying the contrast between the two main central devices, Gobrecht's Lib. Std. figure on the obverse and the John Reich's Spread eagle on the reverse; beautiful works of art.

(Continued on page 3, column 1)

SCNA Conventions the Source of nice Collector Coins over the Years

(Continued from preceding page)



An 1837 Reduced Size Capped Bust quarter graded AU-50 by PCGS
[Use 3X glass to view hard copy or enlarge page to fill monitor screen]

Of all the coins acquired at the South Carolina Numismatic Association Convention over the years, the 1837 Capped Bust quarter shown here is one of my all time favorites. The writer remembers spotting it at the **2012 convention** at a major national dealer's table early on the Friday first day of the three day show and thought, "Wow! This is on my want list but it's not going to be cheap." Here was a certified PCGS-AU-50 coin that had virtually no surface damage, a tiny bit of wear so evenly distributed that the coin still had the appearance of an MS-62 yet priced above retail at \$800 but well below the over \$2,200 price that an MS-62 would bring. After walking the bourse for over two hours, he returned to the dealer's table, noted the coin was still there and paid the dealer what he had originally asked because it was so superior a coin for the grade. The dealer reported that he had several inquiries about the coin and I was fortunate to return when I did because it might have been gone before the end of the day.

The Capped Bust quarter designed by John Reich was first released in the larger 27mm size in 1815 and looks a lot like the Capped Bust half-dollar without the lettered edge, but that series was struck from 1815 thru 1828 and has far lower mintages than the Bust half and is far more expensive. In 1829, the "close collar" was installed into the screw-press to insure the diameter of each denomination placed in the assemblage would be the same as the other coins struck in that denomination. The quarter was reduced from 27 mm to 24.3 mm, (same as now) and thickened appropriately. During the changeover no quarters were struck in 1829 or 1830 while Chief Engraver William Kneass did some minor revisions, by trimming the Bust of Miss Liberty on the obverse and removing the motto **E PLURIBUS UNUM** from above the eagle on the reverse. The reduced size portion of the series was struck from 1831 thru 1838 in large numbers from slightly over 100,000 to almost 2 million for the 1835 issue alone. The 1837 Bust quarter with a reported mintage of 252,400 is on the lower side of the spectrum but the date is not considered scarce, let alone rare and priced in line with the other eight dates of the series although finding nice ones like the example shown is a challenge to the collector.



A 1911 Barber Liberty Head quarter graded MS-63 by NGC
[Use 3X glass to view hard copy or enlarge page to fill monitor screen]

The 1911-P Barber quarter had a large mintage of 3,720,000 compared with 933,600 for the 1911-D and 988,000 for the 1911-S and by the MS-63 grade, the P-Mint issue is listed at only \$375 compared with \$775 for the 1912-S and \$1,200 for the 1911-D. The specimen shown was acquired at **2013 SCNA** convention from a dealer in the Low Country of South Carolina and is a superb example for the grade.



An 1885 Liberty Seated dime graded MS-64 by PCGS
[Use 3X glass to view hard copy or enlarge page to fill monitor screen]

It was at the **2014 SCNA** convention that the author came across this unusually violet toned Liberty Seated dime (with legend on obverse type) certified MS-64 by PCGS. Regrettably, the photo of the coin shown above does not do it justice as the hues of the encapsulated coin in the hand looks much sharper and appears far more attractive.

From 1879 thru 1890, the Liberty Seated quarters and half-dollars of this period were struck in extremely low numbers for collectors while the Mints were rolling out multi-millions of Morgan dollars. When it came to the dimes, this lasted only three years but starting in 1882, the Philadelphia Mint began striking the ten cent silver denomination in large numbers as well with 2,532,497 coined in 1885. The San Francisco Mint did not resume coining dimes until 1884 but in very low numbers including those struck in 1885 and 1886 as well with the result these three dates are considered rarities and very costly in high grades today. A collector wishing to obtain a Liberty Seated dime from the 1880s would not be able to afford a San Francisco Mint specimen until the 1887-S issue when over 4.4 million were coined. On the other hand, the 1885-P dime is a relatively affordable coin through MS-64 and as it turned out, the last denomination the collector needed to complete his 1885 year set (*excluding gold*).



An 1909 Barber dime graded MS-64 by PCGS
[Use 3X glass to view hard copy or enlarge page to fill monitor screen]

During the Barber Coinage era (1892-1916), the Philadelphia Mint usually struck the most coins of the four mints that produced these silver denominations and they were usually the best struck. The coin shown above was acquired at the **2015 SCNA** convention from the same major national dealer that sold him the far less common 1837 Bust quarter but like the older piece; the coin is pleasing to the eye. It also completed his 1909 year set (*excluding gold*).



A 1902-O Morgan dollar graded MS-64 by PCGS

Needing a 1902 Morgan dollar to complete his denomination set for that year as well, the author--after looking at a number of specimens at the same 2015 event--decided on the MS-64 specimen of the **1902-O** because it was more attractive than the lower graded 1902-P and scarcer 1902-S examples and rarity was not a factor in this instance. Over the decades the SCNA Conventions have been a great source for serious hobbyists to add items of value to their collections.

AUGUSTA COIN CLUB, INC. MINUTES OF MEETING September 19, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Sunrise Grill by President, Steve Nix. We had 43 members and two guests present.

Secretary's Report: The August 15, 2019, 2019 minutes was not read, a copy kept on file.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report was sent by email by Stacey Plooster. We have \$16,762.36 deposited in the checking account.

Prize Winners:

Andrea Price and David Chism won the attendance draw8ng, each receiving 2019 silver eagles. The winner of the 50/50 raffle was Everett Price (\$67.00).

Fall Coin Show Nov 14th (Friday) and November 15th (Saturday) 2019 David Chism - Bourse Chairman.

Our upcoming fall Coin Show will be held at the Columbia County Exhibition Center located at the Grovetown Wal-Mart at Exit 190. David reported 30 tables were sold. The dealers set up time will again occur on Thursday night from 4 to 8 pm as this has been a great success.

Show & Tells:

Shelby Plooster displayed an obsolete note from Ohio that the late J.C. Williams gave her when she was 11 years old and got her interested in collecting. Shelby won the 2017 American Numismatic Association's "YN of the year" award. The Augusta Club presented her with a \$500.00 to help with educational costs. Currently, Shelby is a sophomore at the University of Georgia.

Ed Deketeleare displayed a penny missing its copper coating (zinc looking).

Dick Goddard displayed a 2018 Breast Cancer Awareness Coin. Program commemorative and it's a beautiful coin.

Main Event:

A pizza party was held for our members. In the absence of VP Glenn Sanders, Show Chairman and a former club president, David Chism said the blessing. There was no program due to the length of the party but here will be a program at our October 17 meeting when SJ CSRA CC of Aiken, SC member Walter Kublius returns to give a PowerPoint presentation on *Coins of the Italian States*.

Old Business:

2019 Club dues of \$15.00 per year is past due. We had two juniors draw from the Young numismatist box of coins which are donated by members and dealers. Nominating Committee Chairman Everett Price will be taking nominations for the 2020 year for officers of the Augusta Coin Club. Please sign up.

New Business:

Member Bruce Getman informed the club that he is running for President of SCNA. We still need members to sign up for the Van to attend the South Carolina Numismatic Association show scheduled for Oct. 25 thru 28 in Greenville, SC.

The Sunrise Grill will cater a dinner at our pre Christmas holiday meeting on December 19 when the 2020 election of officers are held.

Our 2019 Club Medallion:



Our 60th Anniversary club medallion struck in pure copper
[Use 3X glass to view hard copy or enlarge page to fill monitor screen]

Since this is our 60th anniversary of the incorporation of our club, the 2019 Augusta medallion features our club logo on the obverse and 60th anniversary centered in the state of Georgia on the reverse instead of a traditional local landmark. The medallions were struck in antique bronze, antique copper, pure copper and silver wash. The cost is \$12.00 each. Only 100 medallions were struck.

Area Shows:

Camden, SC September 21, 2019 Coin Auction:

Our monthly club auction:

In the absence of 1st VP and club auctioneer, Glenn Sanders, David Chism ran the auction (16 lots). Shelby Plooster and her sister Skylar Plooster delivered the goods as the auction was carried on therefore speeding the auction up. The bids recorder was Connie Nix.

*Respectively Submitted,
John Thomas Attaway*

AUGUSTA COIN CLUB 2019 FALL SHOW

**GOLD ★ SILVER ★ CURRENCY ★ TOKENS ★ MEDALS
EXONUMIA ★ JEWELRY ★ COLLECTIBLES ★ SUPPLIES**

**FREE
ADMISSION
FREE PARKING
PUBLIC INVITED**

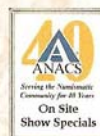
**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15TH &
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH
9:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.**

**COLUMBIA COUNTY EXHIBITION CENTER
212 Partnership Drive – Grovetown, Georgia**

Exit 190 on I-20, go south one block, turn left and drive straight into Exhibition Center.

RAFFLE DRAWING
Saturday at 4:00 p.m.
Purchase tickets from Club
Members or at Registration.

Sponsored by:
AUGUSTA COIN CLUB



“The \$10.00 Tombstone Note”



The Series of 1886 \$10.00 silver certificate, Fr-291
[Use 3X glass to view hard copy or enlarge page to fill monitor screen]

With Halloween approaching, one of the more popular obsolete large US banknotes is the famous \$10.00 silver certificate aptly nicknamed “the Tombstone note”. The derivation comes from the way the portrait of Thomas A. Hendricks was framed in the center of the note with the curvature associated within a tombstone plaque. Although hardly remembered today, Thomas Andrews Hendricks, (1819- 1885) was a rather popular political figure during his heyday. Born in Ohio and raised in Indiana, he was a lifetime Democrat who successfully ran for office as a member of the Congress, first elected in 1851 to the House of Representatives, then, as Senator in 1863 and as Governor of Indiana in 1873.

Despite not in the best of health, he capitulated to serve as his Grover Cleveland’s Vice Presidential candidate in the election of 1884 and was elected to that office when the returns of the federal election declared Cleveland the victor. Regrettably Hendricks served in that office less than a year passing away on November, 1885. As a testimony to his popularity across party lines, he was memorialized on the face of the \$10.00 silver certificate *Series of 1886*., recognized by red circular shield in the lower right corner on the face of the note, renewed again in the *Series of 1891* but with a different back design and the *Series of 1908* with a circular blue shield in the lower right hand corner of the face with the same back as *Series of 1891*.



The Series of 1908 \$10.00 silver certificate, Fr-302
[Use 3X glass to view hard copy or enlarge page to fill monitor screen]

Unfortunately, these notes are expensive today. Even in the mid circulated grades such as Very Fine-30, the current price tag is around \$2,450. The writer remembers acquiring one of these “Tombstone notes” when he was still avidly collecting US large banknotes during the 1990s and doesn’t recall paying anything near that for one of these notes similarly graded.



Thomas A. Hendricks

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